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NEW ORLEANS' FATS DOMINO TO BE INDUCTED INTO DELTA MUSIC MUSEUM'S HALL OF FAME

BATON ROUGE, LA -- Secretary of State Al Ater announces that New Orleans' own Fats Domino will be inducted into the Delta Music Museum's Hall of Fame during this year's festival on April 1 in downtown Ferriday.

Born in the Crescent City in 1928, Antoine "Fats" Domino became synonymous with classic R&B and rock 'n' roll music. After his first public performance at the young age of 10, Fats left school and worked just to perform at local nightclubs. By the 1950s, Fats had 65 million record sales, out selling all rock-and-rollers except the legendary Elvis Presley, and between 1950 and 1963, Fats cracked the pop Top Forty 37 times and the R&B singles chart 59 times.

Domino was born into a musical family and, like New Orleans piano greats such as Professor Longhair and Amos Milburn, began performing for small change in local honky-tonks while working odd jobs to make ends meet. By 1949, Domino had become a fixture at the Hideaway Club. That same year he met Dave Bartholomew, who became his longtime producer, bandleader and collaborator. It proved to be a fortuitous partnership that yielded a bounty of durable, straight-ahead New Orleans rhythm & blues records. While less of an outgoing personality than some of his extroverted rock and roll contemporaries, Domino exhibited staying power based on the solid musicality of his recordings and live performances. In short, he all but dominated the Fifties, insofar as rock 'n' roll was concerned.

Having signed to the Imperial label, Domino cut eight tracks during his first recording session at Cosimo Matassa's J&M Studios. The songs included "The Fat Man," adapted from a song called "Junkers Blues", which reached #2 on the R&B chart and reportedly sold a million copies. Some regard it as the first rock 'n' roll record.

By the summer of 1952, "Goin' Home" becomes the first of nine #1 hits for Fats on the R&B chart, released on Imperial records. Those nine singles topped the R&B chart for a combined 51 weeks between 1952-59, amounting to nearly a full year's worth of chart supremacy.

Domino released "Ain't That a Shame," in 1955, previously popularized by Gene Autry and Glenn Miller. Domino's version topped the R&B chart for 11 weeks, eventually entering the pop charts in mid-July. And later in August, Fats hit #1 on the R&B chart and #10 on the pop chart with "Ain't That A Shame", #1 on the R&B chart with "All By Myself" and #1 on the R&B chart with "Poor Me."

In 1956, continuing his success with Imperial, 'Rock and Rollin' With Fats Domino', his first long-playing album, is released. Later that year, Fats appears with Big Joe Turner in the breakthrough rock 'n' roll film Shake, Rattle and Roll, performing three songs. A month later, he also turns up in The Girl Can't Help It, singing "Blue Monday."

Throughout the late 1950s, Domino scored numerous hits including his highest-charting Top 40 hit, "Blueberry Hill," "I'm Walkin'" and "I Want To Walk You Home."

Fats momentum from the 1950s carried him into the 1960s with his last Top 10 pop hit, "Walking to New Orleans" and after nearly 14 years on the Imperial label, he signed with ABC-Paramount. During the 1960s, he will also record for the Mercury and Reprise labels.

In 1968, Fats Domino's last single to make Billboard's Top 100 Pop Singles chart is a cover of the Beatles' "Lady Madonna," a song that had been affectionately written in the Domino style by Paul McCartney.

With a career spanning several decades, Domino decided in the 1980s that he would no longer leave New Orleans, having a comfortable income from royalties and a dislike for touring.

During his lifetime, Fats received many awards including his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at its first induction dinner held in New York City and his receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 29th annual Grammy Awards.

It is noted that Fats Domino is "one of the most important links between rhythm & blues and rock 'n' roll."

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